

Richmond University Medical Center

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Richmond University Medical Center Holds Breast Health Day



Breast and Women's Center staff, guests, and VIPs, including DA Michael McMahon, release balloons to commemorate those lost to breast cancer.

Close to 30 women from across Staten Island received free mammograms and breast health information on Saturday, September 21, as part of Richmond University Medical Center's Breast Health Day. The screenings were held at the hospital's Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard in Sunnyside. The screenings followed a commemoration ceremony held to remember those lost to breast cancer.

"According to the American Cancer Society, from 2011 to 2015 Staten Island has had the highest rate of new cancer cases in New York City," hospital president and chief executive officer, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said during the commemoration ceremony. "In Staten Island, female breast cancer accounts for 13.9 percent of all cancer cases on Staten Island and 6.9 percent of all cancer deaths. If we can save one life today, then today's event is a victory."

The event was held in conjunction with all of Staten Island's elected officials and New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer. Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon was on hand for the morning commemoration ceremony where he stressed the importance of mammograms and thanked Richmond University Medical Center for opening a center specifically focused on women's health issues. He was joined by representatives from the offices of Stringer and New York State Senator Andrew Lanza. In addition to a moment of silence and a reading of the names of people who have passed due to breast cancer, attendees released balloons in honor of those no longer with us.

The free 3D mammograms were provided in the center's breast imaging sensory suites. The suites are outfitted with flat-screen televisions that display calming visuals such as waterfalls, forests, and beach scenes and also incorporate an audio component, such as water rushing, birds chirping, or waves lapping, to create an even more interactive experience. The mammograms were provided under the direction of board certified radiologists Michael Shamis, MD, DABR, and Dara Fedele, MD, DABR. Pink flowers and breast health information were presented to each patient at the conclusion of their exam.

While patients waited for their exams, a breast health seminar was provided by the hospital's board certified chief of breast surgery, Tihesha L. Wilson, MD, FACS. Dr. Wilson discussed risk factors for breast cancer and ways women can maintain good breast health, including self-exams.

Located at the corner of Victory Boulevard and Clove Road, the Breast and Women's Center provides advanced imaging and clinical services in one location. The center will celebrate its one year anniversary in October, which is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Dr. Dara Fedele (center) and the staff at the Breast and Women's Center provided almost 30 free 3D mammograms during the Breast Health Day on September 21.

From the President & CEO

Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D., FACHE



A few weeks ago our hospital rose to the occasion once again, going above and beyond the great care provided day in and day out. As you may have read or seen on television, a police officer was shot in the hand during a response to a domestic violence incident in Stapleton. Thankfully she is expected to make a full recovery and was discharged the next day following surgery performed here by Dr.

Biagio Pacifico. Hundreds of her fellow police officers and our own staff cheered her on as she and her family walked out our main entrance, up to Bard Avenue, and away to her home. We wish her a speedy recovery and thank her for her service to our city.

The day she was admitted to our hospital the entire emergency department staff sprang immediately into action, even before she came through the door. Throughout the day so many officers expressed their thanks to me and to our many physicians, medical staff, and personnel for the quality of care, compassion, and cooperation being provided.

Police Commissioner James O'Neill, Mayor Bill De Blasio, and

PBA President Pat Lynch heaped praise upon our hospital, including during their comments made at an official press briefing held in the Sipp Auditorium.

Words cannot express how impressed and awestruck I, senior leadership, and our board of trustees are at how quickly so many shifted gears and rose to the occasion. No day is routine in a hospital,

but the composure and teamwork exhibited throughout the day, especially in the ED, gave new definition to the term professional.

A special thanks also goes out to our director of EMS and security, William Amaniera, and his team for coordinating the security and integrity of our campus, which was swarming with police and press, while also ensuring that our incoming patients were not displaced by the ongoing situation. A job well done!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please remember to schedule your own mammogram and urge others to do so at our Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard. The number to call is 718-818-1161. We have the most advanced imaging services available, including 3D mammograms provided in Staten Island's first sensory exam suites to make your exam a comfortable experience. Screenings save lives, as we all know!

**Remember the Power of One —
You Make A Difference!**

American College of Cardiology Lists RUMC in US News & World Report

In US News and World Report's Best Hospital's 2020 edition, Richmond University Medical Center is listed along with over 2,000 hospitals and healthcare systems across the country who rely on the American College of Cardiology (ACC)'s Accreditation Services and National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR). The list enables patients and caregivers to find local healthcare facilities that participate in the NCDR and receive the ACC's accreditation seal of approval.

ACC's Accreditation Services link performance improvements to patient outcomes and promote consistent processes across the care continuum. The NCDR is ACC's suite of data registries that helps health care facilities measure and improve the quality of cardiovascular care they provide. The NCDR uses real-world evidence to improve patient outcomes and achieve quality heart care.

Richmond University Medical Center is listed for its specific care in the areas of:



**AMERICAN
COLLEGE of
CARDIOLOGY®**

- Diagnostic cardiac catheterization and percutaneous coronary intervention
- Acute myocardial infarction treatment
- Implantable cardioverter defibrillator and leads procedures

Patient Satisfaction: *A Note of Thanks*

Dear Dr. Messina,

I wanted to take a few moments to express my thoughts on my experience at Richmond University Medical Center on August 12. I had some alarming symptoms that morning: tingling in my face, spasms and numbness in my hands and arms, a pain in my stomach, and a rapid heartbeat.

My husband Bob and I decided I needed to go to the emergency room and called 9-1-1. The EMTs, Rob and Meg, could not have been more kind and patient while taking my vitals, listening to my symptoms, and thoroughly checking me out. They were very, very reassuring in calming me down and indicating that in their opinion, based on their examination, I had not suffered a stroke but should go to the emergency department to get everything checked out. They gently carried me down the many, many steps from my house into the ambulance.

On arrival, they reported my symptoms to the admitting staff who immediately sprang into action and assigned me to a private little room close to the radiology department. My nurse listened to what had occurred prior to the onset of the symptoms and started a saline drip. Blood tests determined that my magnesium levels had dropped to a critical level. Within minutes, the PA and the nurse informed me that I would be getting magnesium drips.

My nurse consulted with the PA and they determined a head and stomach CAT scan should be done. My nurse frequently visited me during this time to check in. Since I cannot walk without a walker, an aide in a blue uniform obtained a wheelchair and assisted my husband in getting me down to the bathroom. After drinking a jug of liquid concentrate, she scheduled the scans for 90 minutes or so after I completed the drink.

The aide in the gray uniform was very attentive. She got me blankets when I was cold and pillows for my back. She also cleaned and bandaged a cut my husband got on his leg when exiting the ambulance.

The woman in radiology could not have been kinder, calling me by name and continually assuring me that I was doing great. I am somewhat immobile, but she was so gentle, and strong, and helped me onto the bed for the test.

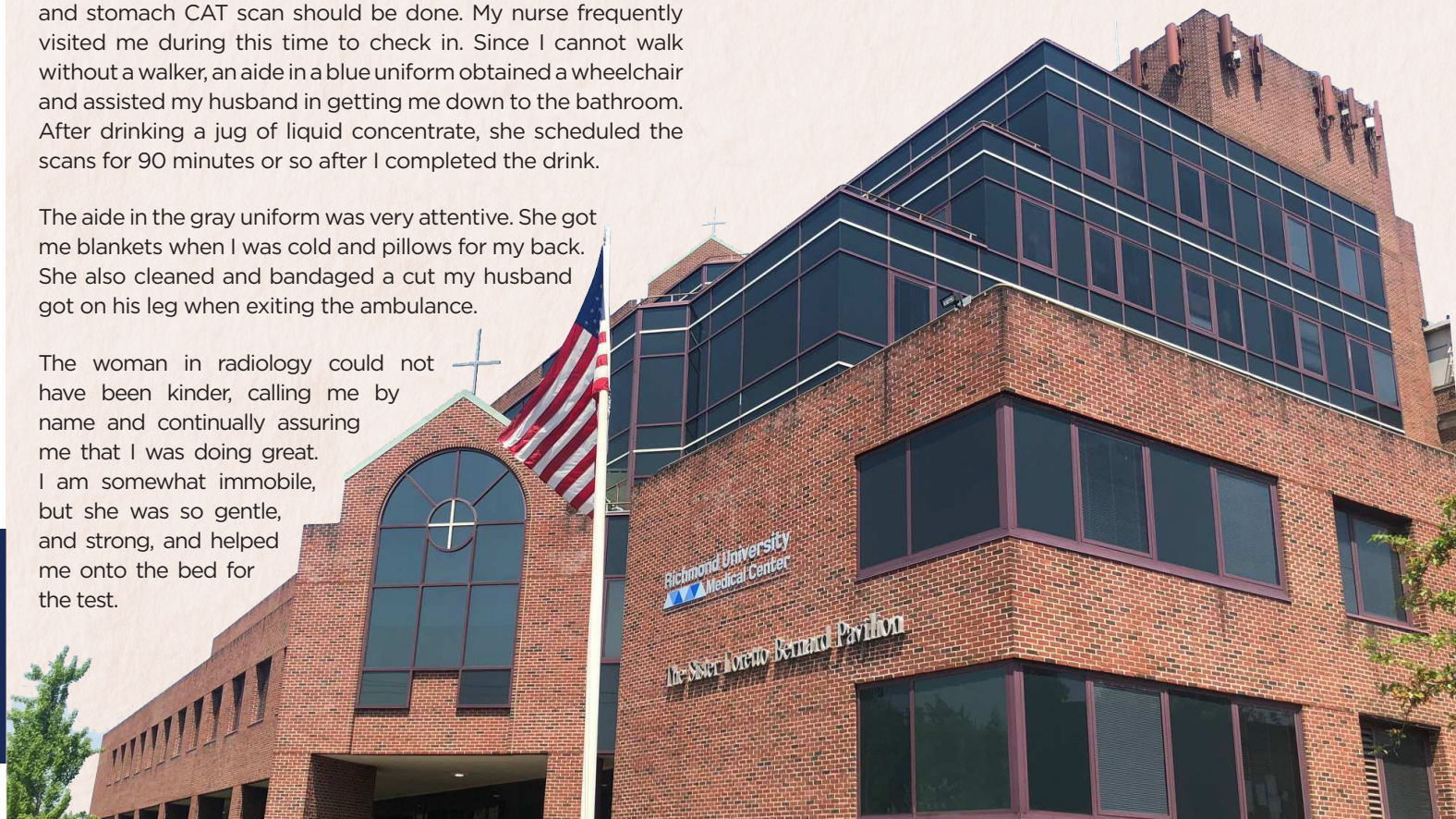
Against the PA's advice, I decided not to stay overnight. She said she could arrange for a walker and raised the possibility of my getting an aide or having my husband stay with me. She could not have been more patient and obviously concerned about my wellbeing, but once the decision was made she told us she would arrange for a magnesium prescription.

All I can say is that from the moment the terrific EMTs arrived at my house to the moment I left the emergency department, every person who tended to me was sympathetic, kind, personable, and obviously very professional. Amidst the very busy and crowded emergency department, I felt I was being attended to with care and compassion. You and your staff are to be highly commended for the sense of compassionate care that permeates the entire facility.

I can't imagine how much better things will be when the new emergency department is completed and this wonderful team can continue to function the way they do today, albeit in a significantly improved environment.

My husband and I ran into Meg and Rob while we were waiting for my niece to pick us up. They were as happy as we were to see that I was okay and on my way home! Thank you and the team again.

— *Patrice Moore*



RUMC Expert Confirms Early Detection of Prostate Cancer is Key

With more than 200,000 cases diagnosed every year and over 32,000 deaths occurring annually from the disease, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United States and the third leading cause of cancer death among American males (behind lung and colon cancer), according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

The good news is that, if discovered and treated in its early stages, success rates are very high. “Thanks to modern advances in cancer therapies, prostate cancer is very treatable and curable in its early stages and the side effects are very minimal,” Joseph Motta, MD, board certified clinical urologist, urological surgeon, and chairman of urology at Richmond University Medical Center said. “For that reason, early detection is critical.”

Situated under the male bladder, the prostate is a gland that is involved in both fertility/sexual function and the urinary process. “The prostate can enlarge over time due to genetics and age, though an enlarged prostate isn’t necessarily synonymous with cancer,” Dr. Motta confirmed.

While direct causes of prostate cancer remain unclear, men are at higher risk if they have a family history of the disease or are of certain ethnicities, including African American. While later-stage symptoms of prostate cancer may include lower back pain, difficulty walking or urinating, or blood in the urine, “unfortunately, there are few to no symptoms of early prostate cancer,” Dr. Motta said.

For that reason, “an annual prostate/digital rectal exam and/or an ultrasound/MRI for men aged 45 and above is important,” Dr. Motta said. “A specialized Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test can also reflect if something is going on in the prostate. Readings above the normal level of 0-4 (especially those above 10) may indicate a higher risk of developing prostate cancer,” he said, adding that a urologist can rule out other causes.

If PSA readings are between 4 and 10 and prostate cancer is localized to that organ, many effective

treatment options are available.

“Among those are robotic surgery, radiation therapy, cryotherapy, radiosurgery involving high-tech tools like the Gamma Knife, and the administration of hormonal therapy to block testosterone and suppress the growth of prostate disease,” Dr. Motta said. “These approaches can be used alone or in combination with each other for enhanced efficacy.” Detected early and categorized as ‘Gleason 6’ prostate cancer (e.g., early stage and/or slow-growing), “the five and 10-year survival rates are over 90%,” he said.

Among exciting new treatments, “positive advancements in the use of monoclonal antibodies, which bind to different proteins and antigens on prostate cancer cells to suppress their growth, are improving quality of life,” Dr. Motta said. “On the horizon, preventative vaccines against prostate cancer are in clinical trials now.”

Based on his over 20 years of experience treating patients, Dr. Motta shared his top tips for males (and their loved ones) when it comes to preventing and/or treating prostate cancer:

Get a Yearly Exam – “While those at highest risk are typically aged 55-70, patients can contract prostate cancer as early as their 40s,” said Dr. Motta, who recommends that males get an annual prostate/digital rectal exam and PSA blood test beginning at age 45.

Live a Healthy Lifestyle – Dr. Motta recommends limiting the consumption of red meat and dairy and engaging in other healthy dietary practices, such as the avoidance of sugar and fried foods, which generate free radicals that can lead to cancer cell growth. “Diets should be rich in fruits and vegetables, soy protein, and Vitamin E and selenium, which are strong tumor suppressors and antioxidant agents,”



Dr. Joseph Motta, board certified clinical urologist, urological surgeon, and chairman of urology at Richmond University Medical Center.

he said. He added that a regular exercise regimen is also beneficial.

Overcome the Stigma – Dr. Motta said that men’s discomfort with the possible side effects of a prostate cancer diagnosis—which can include erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence—may prevent some men from getting screened in the first place. “But we’re finding that more and more of the fear that men used to have has softened,” Dr. Motta said. “Thanks to greater societal awareness of prostate cancer over the years, we’re seeing more men talking about it, taking charge, and making their own doctor’s appointments. As a result, we’re diagnosing the disease earlier and successfully curing it.”

Seek a Qualified Practitioner – Should prostate cancer be detected, Dr. Motta recommends that patients seek a qualified practice with extensive experience in treating the disease. “Treatment should involve a collaborative effort between radiation oncologists, surgeons, and other support staffers in a center of excellence,” he said.

The Urology Center can be reached at (718) 370-1400.

This article can be found on SLive.com and was written by Susan Bloom.

Richmond University Medical Center Remembers September 11, 2001

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, Richmond University Medical Center paid tribute to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, with a ceremony in front of the hospital's 9/11 memorial on Bard Avenue. Over 100 physicians, staff, patients, and community leaders participated in the ceremony, which included tributes, a moment of silence, and reflections from First Responders who participated in the rescue operations 18 years ago.

"As those who experienced that day 18 years ago, it is our duty to make sure that future generations know what happened just a few miles from where we stand today," hospital executive vice president Dr. Peter Carpenito said.

On hand for the morning's ceremony were a host of dignitaries including Deputy Borough President Ed Burke, Assembly Members Michael Reilly, Charles Fall and Nicole Malliotakis, and Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon. They were joined by representatives for Rep. Max Rose, and New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer.

While bagpipes filled the air, members of the NYPD, FDNY, and EMS stood at attention as the Staten Island chapter of Rolling Thunder motorcycle club, all military veterans, performed the changing of the colors ceremony, hoisting a new American flag and POW/MIA flag atop the hospital flagpole directly above the 9/11 memorial stone and garden.



Nurses hold an American flag bearing the names of the over 2,000 people killed in the attacks 18 years ago.



Honor guard marches up Bard Avenue as RUMC pauses to remember those lost on September 11, 2001.

Dr. Jakey Patwari Named Administrative Director, Office of Clinical Research



Jakey Patwari, MD, CCRC, CPI, FAPCR has been named administrative director for the Office of Clinical Research (OCR) at Richmond University Medical Center. He is responsible for day to day operation of clinical research activities at the medical center.

Dr. Patwari has over 27 years of experience in the management of clinical trials at both the national and international levels. He has made substantial contributions to the conduct and management of numerous industry sponsored, NIH and investigator initiated clinical trials in multiple therapeutic areas, including oncology, neurology, cardiovascular, endocrinology, women's health, pulmonary, GI, GU, ENT, ophthalmology, psychiatry, and many device and diagnostic studies.

Before joining Richmond University Medical Center, Dr. Patwari worked as senior project manager of United BioSource Corporation (UBC), a medium-size contract research organization, where he managed many national and multinational clinical trials for multiple drug companies.

Prior to joining UBC, Dr. Patwari worked as an executive vice president and head of clinical research at CarePoint Health Research Institute in the CarePoint Health System. At CarePoint, he worked as head of research operations for Hoboken University Medical Center, Bayonne Medical, and Christ Hospital in New Jersey.

Dr. Patwari has authored dozens of national and international publications and written many newspaper articles on clinical research. He maintains dual certifications as both a certified principal investigator and certified clinical research coordinator by the Academy of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research.

September New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Joel Abraham, *Paramedic*
 Ria Ajibade, *Nursing Assistant*
 Steven Alcindor, *MHT*
 Aziza Andrews, *Nursing Assistant*
 Emily Bisogna, *Unit Clerk*
 Amber Black, *EMT Driver*
 Renae Bright, *PA*
 Michael Cabbad, *Physician*
 Mary Cain, *Sr Clerk*
 John Capotosto, *Anesthesia Tech*
 Jacqueline Castellon, *Office Support*
 Stephanie Culotta, *Social Worker*
 Jared DeSalvo, *Paramedic*
 Vanessa Dominguez, *SLP*
 Rita Dwamena, *Nurse Manager*
 Heba Elbery, *Classroom Substitute*
 Sahar Elshenawy, *Classroom Substitute*
 Thomas Falcone, *Security*
 Danielle Farley, *Paramedic*
 Olha Fedoryshyn, *Clinical Lab Tech*
 Desara Gjediku, *Guest Rep*
 Anthony Guaragno, *Financial Analyst*
 Trai Hyde, *Building Service Worker*
 Ishita Kharode, *Chief of Endoscopy*
 Jon Kravitz, *Security*
 Krystal Lopez, *Assistant Teacher*
 Magdalena Lubinski, *Lab Tech*

Kate McNamara, *Fellow*
 Chrystina Mecca, *Receptionist*
 Shadi Mehraban, *Clinical Research Fellow*
 Edyl Melecio, *Building Service Worker*
 Patricia Messina, *RN*
 Lori Miller, *Clerk*
 Nikola Miloshevski, *Transporter*
 Nadira Mitchell, *Food Service Worker*
 Stephanie Morrison, *Central Sterile Tech*
 Kenya Munnerlyn, *Building Service Worker*
 Angely Ng, *Nursing Assistant*
 Robert Pillarella, *EMT Driver*
 Arthur Reyes, *Nursing Assistant*
 Nicholas Rodriguez, *Transporter*
 Deborah A Rodriguez, *Peer Specialist*
 Nicholas Schettino, *EMT Driver*
 Suzan Shasivari, *Building Service Worker*
 Mervat Shaybout, *Classroom Substitute*
 Corey Straker, *Supervisor*
 Nicole Sutler, *Receptionist*
 Megan Sweezy, *Social Worker*
 Stephanie Tavarez, *Food Service Worker*
 Jacqueline Titus, *Case Aide*
 Dolores Van Pelt, *VP of Process Improvement*
 Oron Wettenstein, *Radiology Tech*
 Lorraine Zarzana, *Receptionist*

TJC Readiness Check List

With the start of a new month, please take the opportunity to check out your *Check Lists*!

Review all your clip boards and binders for monthly check lists such as

☐ **Refrigerator**
☐ **Code cart checks**
☐ **Other equipment logs**

Please remove any prior check lists and only keep the current month's available. Use this as an opportunity to be certain that check lists and logs are complete before filing.



RUMC Welcomes Visit by Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health

The Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) has been working with the Ministry of Health from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, sharing information about the population health challenges in both countries.

As Saudi Arabia moves away from a government operated health system to a market driven system, they are seeking ways to move this initiative forward. During the week of September 9, a team from their Ministry of Health visited Staten Island. Richmond University Medical Center physicians and administrators participated in the three-day visit. After an opening conference, the team visited multiple health providers including the Endocrine Center, Richmond Cardiology Practice at Forest Avenue, the Breast and Women's Center, and the Center for

Integrative Behavioral Medicine. Our physicians shared best practices and ideas on how the Medical Center, ACO,

DSRIP, and ambulatory enterprise address gaps in care and population health issues.



(L to Right) Dr. Joseph Conte, SI-PPS; Dr. Abdulmalik Al-Jafari Al-Tayar; Dr. Maryam Al-Qaseet; Dr. Majd Al-Bakr; Dr. Yousif Al-Omran; and Richard Salhany, MBA, FACHE, President, Richmond University Health Network.

Medical Staff Participate in NYPD “Walk Out” for Injured Officer

On September 18, Police Officer Venesa Medina was released from the hospital's care after being shot in the hand during a police response to a domestic violence incident the day before in Stapleton. Over

100 members of the NYPD came to the official “walk out” ceremony, saluting PO Medina as she exited the hospital before breaking out into applause and cheers. Officer Medina was accompanied by her family and

friends after spending the night at Richmond University Medical Center following surgery on her hand, which was performed by Biagio Pacifico, MD.



NYPD Officer Venesa Median walks out of RUMC with family and friends after being shot in the hand while in the line of duty the day before.

Over 150 Participants Race in RUMC's Annual 5K Run/Walk

Over 150 runners and walkers descended on Clove Lakes Park on September 7 to take part in Richmond University Medical Center's third annual 5K run/walk. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the new emergency department's material child care section, including physiological monitors and mobile computer stations.

The overall winner of this year's run was David Michaels with a time of 19:23.2. He was followed by Dr. Francesco Rottatori (19:36.1) in second place and Jennifer Mercurio (20:06.0) who took

third. The top three male finishers were Michaels, followed by Rottatori and then Eric Sandall (21:41.1). The top female finishers were Mercurio, followed by Jen Marano-Gregorio (21:37.6) and Isabelle Cammayo (21:52.2). The winner of the group competition was the Heartthrobs.

Among the runners and walkers who came from across Staten Island and surrounding communities to participate were members of the men's basketball team from Wagner College. The college has been a longtime supporter of Richmond University Medical Center.

